

Nesting attempts: Between 10-50 pairs attempted to nest at a time with number of nesting attempts varying annually from 4 in 1965, 6 in 1966, 9 in 1967, 7 in 1968, and 4 in 1969. The total number of pairs nesting varied annually from 150 in 1965, 60 in 1966, 195 in 1967, 150 in 1968, to 20 in 1969.

Nests: The nests were circular and consisted of numerous feathers glued together with pieces of straw 1-12 cm long. In one instance two pieces of loose concrete, each about 3 cm in diameter, were glued into the nest. Two nests measured 10 x 10 cm with the cavity 3 cm deep and 9 x 10 cm with the cavity 2.5 cm deep.

Eggs and clutch size: Four, elliptical, unspotted white to off-white eggs measured 22-26 x 13-15 (23.5 x 17.5 mm). Clutch size for 7 nests was 1.9 eggs/nest (3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 3, 1).

Nesting success: In May 1967 50 per cent (25 out of a total of 50 nests counted) had eggs or partly feathered young. In 1965, 1967 and 1968 48.3 per cent of the nests were estimated to have young calling in them (1965: 55 of 150; 1967: 100 of 195; 1968: 85 of 150).

REFERENCES

- BROOKE, R.K. 1971. Breeding of swifts in Ethiopian Africa and adjacent islands. *Ostrich* 42(1): 5-36.
- GUICHARD, K.M. 1950. A summary of the birds of the Addis Ababa region. *Jl. E. Afr. Nat. Hist. Soc.* Vol. 19, No. 5(89), 154 pp.
- PAIN, H., TYLER, S.J. & VITTERY, A. 1975. *A checklist of the birds of Addis Ababa*. Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, Addis Ababa.
- SCHWAB, L.T. 1979. Some nesting data on the Nyanza Swift *Apus nianzae* *Scopus* 3(1): 26-27.
- SMITH, K.D. 1944. The birds of Addis Ababa, Central Abyssinia, and its surroundings. *Ibis* 86: 245-251.
- VAN SOMEREN, V.G.L. 1922. Notes on the birds of East Africa. *Novitates Zoologicae* 29: 1-146.
- Emil K. Urhan, Department of Biology, Augusta College, Augusta, Georgia 30910, U.S.A.

Scopus 8: 97-98, December 1984

Received 9 November 1984

EXAMPLE OF APPARENT HYBRIDISATION BETWEEN *TERPSIPHONE RUFIVENTER* AND *TERPSIPHONE VIRIDIS*

The status of these two species in the area round Kampala is of some interest. Both species are common, and occur together in the same gardens in more than one place in Kampala. *T. rufiventer* is basically a forest species, and the race *somereni* occurs in southern Uganda in the true forests. The race *emini* tends to occur in more open areas, such as gardens and fragmented forest. This race has much paler rufous underparts than *somereni*. *T. viridis* occurs in southern Uganda in two forms: *restricta* which, as far as is known, is confined to the islands, and the adjacent shore of L Victoria. In the Kampala area the commonest form of *viridis* is *ferreti*. This is a paler grey below than *restricta*, and the tail is not so long. Occasional

individuals are seen with the underparts a mixture of light grey and light rufous.

The following observations made in a Kampala garden, relate to successful breeding between a male *T. viridis ferreti* and a female *T. rufiventer emini*: Male bird: fairly rich rufous above with darker flight feathers. Head black with a slight crest, and a blue eye ring. Tail rufous, and with only slightly elongated central feathers. Underparts grey, under tail coverts pale rufous.

Female bird: Above as in the male. Tail not elongated. Below very pale rufous including the belly and under tail coverts.

The pair was observed building (only the female was actually observed building) and copulating between 5.6.81 and 10.6.81. On 10.6.81 the female was observed sitting, which she continued to do intermittently. The male was first observed sitting on 14.6.81 and the pair continued to share the incubation until 23.6.81. Unfortunately at that point I had to go on leave. But a subsequent observer informed me that the nest was blown down in a storm in early July, and one partly fledged chick was found dead at the foot of the tree.

Margaret Carswell, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala.

Received 9 November 1984

Scopus 8: 98-99, December 1984

A RECORD OF BAR-BREASTED FIREFINCH *LAGONOSTICTA RUFOPICTA NITIDULA* FROM TANZANIA

At 10.00 hours on 27 June 1982 I was tape-recording bird calls at the bridge crossing the Kalambo River in extreme SW Tanzania (08°16'S, 31°19'E). While walking along by the thick riverside vegetation I heard an unfamiliar twittering call coming from a clump of bushes. I recorded the call and then moved closer to investigate its source. I approached to within 10 m before I saw three small birds sitting close to each other on a branch making the call. I recognised them as firefinches but not of a species with which I was familiar. After watching them for about 10 minutes through x10 binoculars, they flew down to a puddle 5 m away made by a small spring flowing into the river. All three birds drank and then bathed for the next 5 minutes. During this time I had excellent views of them from all angles and concluded that they were Bar-breasted Firefinches *Lagonosticta rufopicta*. There was an adult male and female while the third bird was an immature. The male was brownish grey on the lower chest fading to light greyish buff on the belly. There was a pinkish wash on the upper chest and throat with scattered white spots. The back, rump and tail were warm brown on all three birds. After the birds finished bathing they flew off into the undergrowth. I stayed in the vicinity the rest of the day but other than hearing the distinctive twittering call a few more times, I did not see the birds again.

The possibility of confusion with similar species occurring in the area was excluded on the following basis. The Red-billed Firefinch, *L. senegala*, occurs in drier situations and has a reddish rump in both sexes; the birds I saw had brown rumps. There was more white spotting on the chest of the male than there is in the male of *L. senegala*. The African Firefinch, *L. rubricata*, which could occur in the same habitat as *nitidula*, is darker brown above and both sexes have red rumps and black tails. I am familiar